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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, give our lawmakers wisdom and spiritual eyes to see You at work. Remind them that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Guide our Senators to strive to please You by living blameless, holy, and disciplined lives.

As they battle this coronavirus pandemic, may they not forget the marginalized.

Lord, give our lawmakers a hunger for Your words and a desire to apply Your knowledge in their daily work.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the eyes of the Nation are on the Senate. For days now, we have been engaged in intense, bipartisan talks to build emergency relief legislation on a historic scale, to push resources to our healthcare heroes and American workers and families.

Democrats and Republicans sat down together. We crafted this version of a proposal together. This compromise package would push tens of billions of dollars to hospitals and healthcare providers. It would send direct checks to millions of American households—direct checks. It would massively expand unemployment insurance in this crisis. It would stabilize industries to prevent mass layoffs. And, crucially, it would deliver historic relief to small businesses to help Main Street employees from being totally crushed—crushed—by this pandemic.

But, yesterday, when the time came to vote on these urgent measures, our Democratic colleagues chose to block it. So why are the American people still waiting? It is a good question to ask. I hear the markets are not doing well today. They would like to ask the question of us: Why not move? Why are Democrats filibustering the bipartisan bill they helped write?

It is an appropriate question to ask this morning as the country waits on us. So let me give the American people a taste of the outstanding issues we woke up to this morning. Here are some of the items on the Democratic wish list over which they chose to block this legislation last night: tax credits for solar energy and wind energy, provisions to force employers to give special new treatment to Big Labor, and—listen to this—new emissions standards for the airlines.

Are you kidding me? This is the moment to debate new regulations that have nothing whatsoever to do with this crisis? That is what they are up to over there. The American people need to know it.

Democrats will not let us fund hospitals or save small businesses unless they get to dust off the Green New Deal. I would like to see Senate Democrats tell New York City doctors and nurses who are literally overrun as we speak that they are filibustering hospital funding and more masks because

they want to argue with the airlines over their carbon footprint.

I would like to see Senate Democrats tell small business employees in their States, who are literally being laid off every day, that they are filibustering relief that will keep people on the payroll because Democrats' special interest friends want to squeeze employers while they are vulnerable—squeeze these employers while they are vulnerable.

I would like to see Senate Democrats tell all the American seniors who have seen their hard-earned retirement savings literally melt away, as the markets track toward their worst month since 1931, that they are continuing to hold up emergency measures over tax credits for solar panels—tax credits for solar panels.

Even with the Federal Reserve announcing even further extraordinary steps today, the markets are tanking once again, as I said, because this body can't get its act together, and the only reason it can't get its act together is right over here on the other side of the aisle.

So these are just a few of the completely nongermane wish list items that they are rallying behind, preventing us from getting this emergency relief to the American people right now, eleventh-hour demands the Democrats have decided are more important than Americans' paychecks and the personal safety of doctors and nurses.

So remember what one of Speaker PELOSI's top lieutenants in the House said a few days ago—and this is a direct quote: This is a tremendous opportunity to restrict things to fit our vision—to fit our vision. That was the Democratic whip in the House, just laying it out there. It reminds me of the definition of a Washington gaffe: when a politician in Washington tells you what he really means.

We heard something similar here on the Senate floor last night—just last night. Here was one of our Democratic

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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